



Georgia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday  
March 27,  
2023

# DAILY REPORT

39th  
Legislative  
Day

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

- The House will reconvene for its 40th Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- No bills / resolutions are expected to be debated on the floor.

## Today on the Floor

### Motions to Insist

**HB 142 Education; establishment of unified campus police forces through agreements by colleges and universities; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 142 provides for the establishment of unified campus police forces through agreements entered into by colleges and universities.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mesha Mainor (56th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Insist:** *(A motion to insist sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

### Motions to Agree As Amended by the House

**HB 52 Transportation, Department of; amend notice provisions relative to meetings for election of board members; provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 52 allows for the call of a caucus for a Department of Transportation board election to be sent via email rather than by mail.

The bill clarifies language relating to contracting for public-private partnerships and alternative contracting methods.

The bill amends the Code governing the length of modular unit transporters to allow for an increased length from 80 feet to 84 feet when a permit is purchased. Code Section 45-16-23 is amended to allow any coroner or county medical examiner to delegate to medical personnel the power to perform the duties of the coroner or county medical examiner when an accident on an interstate highway or limited-access road results in a death and a significant disruption to the flow of traffic.

The Department of Transportation is added to the Code section relating to when public disclosure is not required by a state agency and adds the data of vehicle information, or personally identifiable information, to those records that are not required to be disclosed.

The bill establishes a plan for implementation and funding for freight and logistics in Georgia. The department is required to establish a freight plan and to report back to the General Assembly on those plans.

The bill increases the quick response project cap to \$400,000 from \$200,000.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brad Thomas (21st)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

**HB 77 Dougherty Judicial Circuit; superior court; provide for a fourth judge**

Bill Summary: House Bill 77 increases the number of superior court judges in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit from three to four. The fourth judge will be appointed for a term beginning July 1, 2023 continuing through December 31, 2024. His or her successor will be elected at the nonpartisan judicial election in 2024.

**Authored By:** Rep. Gerald Greene (154th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

**HB 193 Local government; increase dollar values of certain public works construction contracts exempt from bidding requirements**

Bill Summary: HB 193 increases the contract value amount from \$100,000 or less to \$250,000 or less for a public works construction contract that is exempt from specified contracting and bidding requirements.

The bill allows rapid transit authorities to purchase \$250,000 or less per year in goods, supplies, and services without competitive bidding.

**Authored By:** Rep. Victor Anderson (10th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

**HB 273 Board of Natural Resources; extend date by which rules and regulations must be in effect for purposes of establishing criminal violations**

Bill Summary: HB 273 revises the effective date for rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Natural Resources to January 1, 2023.

The bill makes the following changes to the composition of the Sapelo Island Heritage Authority: allows the governor to appoint a designee, who shall be either a statewide elected official or a representative of a state agency; increases the number of members from the Hog Hammock community from one to two and require the two members to be direct descendants of the slaves of Thomas Spalding; removes the commissioner of the Human Relations; and designates the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources the chairperson and the governor as the vice chairperson of the authority.

**Authored By:** Rep. Buddy DeLoach (167th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Motions to Agree:** *(A motion to agree as amended sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

**Motions to Disagree****HB 189 Highways, bridges, and ferries; allowable variance for weight limitations upon a vehicle or load; provide for**

Bill Summary: HB 189 provides for a 10 percent variance for trucks when hauling agricultural or farm products from a farm to the first point of marketing or processing within a 75 mile radius of the farm or point of origin, and must be outside of the 13 county metro Atlanta region.

When the weight of the vehicle is less than 93,000 pounds, a penalty of five cents per pound over the allowed weight limit, not including any variance, is assessed. When the weight is over the variance but less than 93,000 pounds, the penalty is five cents per pound over allowed weight limit, not including any variance. For loads greater than 93,000 pounds but less than 100,000 pounds, the penalty is 10 cents per pound for all excess over allowable weight, not including any variance. When weights equal or exceed 100,000 pounds, the penalty is 20 cents per pound for all excess over allowable weight not including any variance.

The bill provides for penalties based on axle weight and introduces penalties for those who operate a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight greater than the posted weight allowable on any bridge where GDOT has placed signs.

The legislation authorizes local law enforcement agencies to enforce weight limits on roadways within their jurisdiction.

Any variance granted within the legislation has a sunset provision through July 1, 2024.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Motions to Disagree:** *(A motion to disagree sends the bill back to the Senate for consideration.)*

## Rules Calendar

### HR 488 House Rural Development Council; reauthorize

**Bill Summary:** HR 488 reauthorizes the House Rural Development Council.

**Authored By:** Rep. Steven Meeks (178th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**House Committee:** Economic Development & Tourism **Committee Action:** 03-22-2023 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 166 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

### SB 11 "Georgia Fights Terrorism Act"; enact

**Bill Summary:** SB 11 grants original jurisdiction to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) for violation of laws concerning domestic, cyber, biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**House Committee:** Public Safety & Homeland Security **Committee Action:** 03-22-2023 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

### SB 13 Public Sales; tax levies and executions; authorize online

**Bill Summary:** SB 13 amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-311 relating to county boards of equalization, duties, review of assessments, and appeals by allowing a taxpayer with tangible personal property having a fair market value greater than \$200,000 to appeal directly to a hearing officer.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-306 relating to the annual notice of current assessment, contents, posting notice, and new assessment description by requiring that the option to appeal directly to a hearing officer for tangible personal property with a fair market value of greater than \$200,000 be included on the notice of assessment.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**House Committee:** Judiciary **Committee Action:** 03-21-2023 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 170 Nays: 0 **Amendments:**

### SB 20 "Surprise Billing Consumer Protection Act"; ensure consumer access to quality healthcare by setting adequacy standards for network plans offered by an insurer

**Bill Summary:** SB 20 requires insurers to contract with and maintain a sufficient and appropriate number of participating network providers. Additionally, insurers are prohibited from denying preauthorization of services that were rendered by an in-network provider because the referring provider is out-of-network. The bill gives the insurance commissioner authority to review network adequacy.

**Authored By:** Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd) **Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**House Committee:** Insurance **Committee Action:** 03-15-2023 Do Pass  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 166 Nays: 2 **Amendments:**

**SB 56 Ad Valorem Taxation; state revenue commissioner to contract with the board of the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia to offer certain county tax commissioners the option to participate in a state administered deferred compensation plan; require**

**Bill Summary:** SB 56 creates a deferred compensation plan for eligible county tax commissioners. Tax commissioners are eligible if they are not permitted to participate in a retirement system or deferred compensation offered by the county that utilizes a 401(k) or 457(b). The Employees' Retirement System of Georgia will administer the plan and the state will match contributions of up to 5 percent of the minimum annual salary for county tax commissioners.

The bill amends O.C.G.A. 48-1-2 relating to income tax definitions by providing an update to the definition of "Internal Revenue Code" and stipulating that Section 174 of the Internal Revenue Code be included with other sections that will be treated as they were in effect before Public Law 115-97 was enacted in 2017.

SB 56 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-20, relating to individual income tax rates, by clarifying that on January 1, 2024, the income tax imposed will be 5.49 percent and can be reduced annually at a rate of 0.10 percent if certain conditions are met, beginning on January 1, 2025, until the rate reaches 4.99 percent. The bill adds O.C.G.A. 48-7-27.1 to allow for eligible itemizers, defined as eligible residents that choose to deduct certain itemized nonbusiness deductions, to receive a credit of \$300.

SB 56 amends O.C.G.A. 48-7-29.22, relating to tax credits for certain medical preceptor rotations, by extending the sunset provision from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2026.

The bill amends 48-7-40.24, relating to tax credits for jobs associated with large-scale projects, by including a pandemic, defined as a disease outbreak that affects a significant portion of the population and impacts the ability to conduct business, to terms qualifying as "force majeure".

SB 56 amends Title 48, Chapter 8, relating to sales and use tax, by allowing for the imposition of sales and use tax on the retail purchase or sale of certain digital goods, products, and services to an end user. The sale must be for permanent use of the product and cannot be contingent on a reoccurring payment agreement.

**Authored By:** Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (52nd)  
**House** Retirement  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 168 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-21-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 62 Counties and Municipal Corporations; certain local ordinances or policies relating to public camping or sleeping; prohibit**

**Bill Summary:** SB 62 prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any policies that would prohibit the enforcement of any ordinance that prohibits unauthorized public camping, sleeping, or obstruction of sidewalks. The bill prohibits hospitals and local government entities from dropping off homeless individuals outside of their area of operation or jurisdiction, subject to specified exceptions.

The bill requires the state auditor to conduct a performance audit of homeless program spending in this state, including local government spending and the expenditure of federal funds. The audit must be provided to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2023.

**Authored By:** Sen. Carden Summers (13th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 99 Nays: 76

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-15-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 68 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations; offense of dogfighting as racketeering activity; include**

**Bill Summary:** SB 68 adds offenses under the statute outlawing dogfighting to the list of statutes that are eligible to be prosecuted under the racketeering influenced and corrupt organizations (RICO) framework.

**Authored By:** Sen. Rick Williams (25th)  
**House** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 4

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-22-2023 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**SB 92 Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission; create**

**Bill Summary:** SB 92 creates the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission (PAQC). The PAQC consists of a five-member investigative panel with the members consisting of those with various amounts of experience as a district attorney (DA) or solicitor-general (SG), and who are appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and Senate Committee on Assignments. The three-member panel will consist of members with experience as a DA or SG, as well as a former judge with prior experience as a DA or SG, who are appointed by the governor, a vote of the Senate, and a vote of the House. All members must be appointed by July 1, 2023. The PAQC will end its investigation into any DA or SG when that person is under indictment.

The bill contains various grounds for discipline by the PAQC, including: mental or physical incapacity; willful misconduct in office; willful and persistent failure to carry out duties; conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude; conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice; and knowingly authorizing or permitting an assistant DA or assistant SG to commit any act constituting a ground for removal.

The PAQC is allowed to entertain a complaint on various grounds, including when a DA or SG has a stated policy that demonstrates that the DA or SG categorically refuses to prosecute any type of an offense or offenses. No complaints can be filed prior to October 1, 2023. If a DA or SG is removed, the individual is disqualified from being appointed or elected to either of the two positions in any county in the state for a period of 10 years.

The bill adds a duty for DAs and SGs, requiring the elected positions to review every case for probable cause, and to make a prosecutorial decision based on the law and facts of each individual case. The failure to perform these duties will constitute a ground for recall from the position.

The Act is effective upon approval by the governor.

**Authored By:** Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)  
**House** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 97 Nays: 77

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-22-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 107 "Izzy's Law"; Depart. of Public Health shall develop and make available for download from its internet website a model aquatic safety plan based on national standards for private swim instructors; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 107 requires the Department of Public Health to develop a model safety plan for private swim instructors to utilize by January 1, 2024. The plan will include minimum standards for student-to-instructor ratios, secondary supervision recommendations, parent or legal guardian attendance, and use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification. All private swim instructors are required to have an aquatic safety plan by April 1, 2024.

**Authored By:** Sen. Max Burns (23rd)  
**House** Public Health  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-15-2023 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**SB 109 Department of Community Health; include continuous glucose monitors as a pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients; require**

**Bill Summary:** SB 109 prohibits insurers from denying coverage of an in-network provider for provider administered medication or the administration of such medication under certain circumstances.

The bill requires the Department of Community Health to cover continuous glucose monitors through Medicaid as a pharmacy benefit. Eligibility for coverage includes a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus and patient or caregiver training. Additionally, a patient must have use of daily insulin or a history of problematic hypoglycemia to receive the benefit. An in-person or telehealth visit is required within six months prior to and every six months after initial prescription.

**Authored By:** Sen. Shelly Echols (49th)  
**House** Public Health  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 170 Nays: 5

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-21-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 121 Counties and Municipal Corporations; local governments from denying the drilling, servicing, or repair of new or existing water wells on single-family residential and farm properties; prohibit**

**Bill Summary:** SB 121 amends O.C.G.A. 36-60-17.1 to prohibit the denial of the installation of a well to provide water for a single-family resident located on a parcel of one acre or larger.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lee Anderson (24th)  
**House** Natural Resources & Environment  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 171 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-16-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 127 Excise Tax; procedures for certain local governments to change the designated private sector nonprofit organization; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 127 amends O.C.G.A. 48-13-51, relating to an excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations, by requiring any local governing authority that has collected more than \$500,000 in taxes for three consecutive fiscal years to reach an agreement with any designated private sector nonprofit organization that promotes tourism, conventions, and trade shows before any changes can be made to the destination marketing organization. If an agreement is reached, any proposed changes must be reviewed by the Hotel Motel Tax Performance Review Board.

**Authored By:** Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)  
**House** Ways & Means  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 161 Nays: 4

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee** 03-16-2023 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**SB 133 Juvenile Code; a uniform process to assume custody of children as a result of disposition orders; create**

**Bill Summary:** SB 133 clarifies procedures for implementing existing law within the Juvenile Code. Section 1 stipulates that in a child in need of services (CHINS) proceeding, a juvenile court must comply with the law related to a dual designation of a child.

Section 2 provides a framework for CHINS proceedings in which the juvenile court must hear or consider certain information, and comply with Title 15, Chapter 11, Article 3, prior to placing a child in the custody of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) on a nonemergency basis or in the absence of exceptional circumstances based on evidence provided at a disposition hearing.

Once a child has been ordered into the custody of DFCS, the juvenile court must conduct a preliminary protective hearing within 72 hours after the placement. All parties to the CHINS case must provide copies of medical, psychological, and educational assessments, and reports of the child or the child's parent or guardian to DFCS within 72 hours after the ordering of custody.

Section 3 stipulates that in a disposition of a dependent child, a juvenile court must comply with the law related to a dual designation of a child.

Section 4 provides a framework for child delinquency proceedings in which the juvenile court must hear or consider certain information, and comply with Title 15, Chapter 11, Article 3, prior to placing a child in the custody of DFCS on a nonemergency basis or in the absence of exceptional circumstances based on evidence provided at a disposition hearing. Once a child has been ordered into the custody of DFCS, the juvenile court must conduct a preliminary protective hearing within 72 hours after the placement. All parties to the CHINS case must provide copies of medical, psychological, and educational assessments, and reports of the child or the child's parent or guardian to DFCS within 72 hours after the ordering of custody.

**Authored By:** Sen. Brian Strickland (17th)  
**House Committee:** Juvenile Justice  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: Nays:  
**Floor Action:** Recommit to Rules

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-20-2023 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

**SB 137 Tuition Equalization Grants at Private Colleges and Universities; definition of approved school; revise**

Bill Summary: SB 137 allows eligible institutions that have been located in this state since on or before January 1, 2021, to qualify to receive tuition equalization grant funds.

The bill expands tuition equalization grant eligibility to include higher education institutions which offer baccalaureate programs in nursing, have a current physical presence in Georgia for at least five years, have received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and have accreditation from either the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

These institutions must also have a four-year average passage rate of at least 85 percent for the National Council Licensure Examination and admit students who have a high school diploma or equivalency, or a degree from an accredited postsecondary institution. Such institutions are only considered as approved institutions for students who enroll on or before July 1, 2025.

**Authored By:** Sen. Max Burns (23rd)  
**House Committee:** Higher Education  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: Nays:  
**Floor Action:** Recommit to Rules

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-22-2023 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 145 "Landscape Equipment and Agricultural Fairness (LEAF) Act"; enact**

Bill Summary: SB 145 provides guidelines and requirements for municipal deannexations. The bill prohibits deannexations that result in the formation of unincorporated islands or non-contiguous areas within the municipality.

The bill establishes the 'Landscape Equipment and Agricultural Fairness (LEAF) Act' which prohibits local prohibitions or regulations that distinguish or create differing standards for gasoline-powered leaf blowers from any other gasoline-powered, electric, or other type of leaf blower.

The bill makes clarifying changes to the 'Zoning Procedures Law'.

The bill creates the 'Commercial Property Assessed Conservation, Energy, and Resiliency Development Authorities Law'. The act provides for the establishment of commercial property assessed conservation, energy, and resiliency development authorities within each county and municipal corporation in the state.

The authority in each county or municipality cannot exercise any powers until the governing body of the county or municipality declares that there is a need for such an authority. The act provides guidelines for the membership and governance of the board of directors that must be established for

each authority. The purpose of the authorities is to facilitate local businesses in receiving low-cost, long-term financing for specified, qualified improvements including energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and resiliency improvements.

The bill prohibits governmental entities from adopting any policy that restricts the connection or reconnection of any utility service or sales of certain fuels based on the type of source of energy or fuel delivered or the appliance used by the customer.

The bill increases the limit on the amount of investments an electric membership corporation can make or maintain in a gas affiliate from 15 to 30 percent of its net utility plant.

**Authored By:** Sen. Shawn Still (48th)  
**House** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 103 Nays: 67

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-22-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 146 Georgia Public Service Commission; regulation and taxation of the provision of certain electricity used as a motor fuel in electric vehicles; provide**

Bill Summary: SB 146 amends the Code defining terms related to electric vehicles and adding language regarding the sale of electricity at electric vehicle charging stations, making it similar to the sale of gasoline. It gives regulatory authority over electric vehicle charging stations to the Department of Agriculture and clarifies that the supply of electricity by an electric utility to premises that are electric vehicle charging stations will be considered a sale at retail. The bill provides gallon-equivalent rates for electricity and hydrogen used as motor fuel and specifies that vehicles using these methods as a form of motor fuel are not exempt to public motor fuel and road taxes.

The provision of electric vehicle charging services will not violate the 'Georgia Territorial Electric Service Act', as long as it occurs on the same property as the charging station. The bill states that an electric utility may not provide, own, operate, or maintain any publicly available electric vehicle charging station, other than community charging equipment unless the station is provided through a separate legal entity that is not regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

All electric vehicle charging providers will register with the commissioner before operating any electric vehicle charging station and do so annually thereafter. Certificates of registration and conformity will be prominently displayed at each charging station. All electric vehicle charging stations will be capable of accurately measuring and displaying upon the station or on a digital network the amount of electricity delivered to each electric vehicle on a per kilowatt-hour basis. Such stations will be further equipped with meters to record the total kilowatt-hours dispensed.

The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture may hire charging station inspectors and investigators, and is expected to enforce rules and regulations upon those employed. If a station is found to give inaccurate readings and the charging provider fails to make necessary adjustments, the station will be deemed inoperable until reapproved by the department. Those found to provide accurate readings will be marked with a seal by an authorized inspector. The department is given the power to implement rules necessary to carry out inspections in the manner provided in this Code. The bill makes it unlawful to tamper with an inspector-issued seal and outlines penalties for further violations.

**Authored By:** Sen. Steve Gooch (51st)  
**House** Technology and Infrastructure  
**Committee:** Innovation  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 175 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-20-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 155 Dangerous Instrumentalities and Practices; provisions relating to harming a law enforcement animal; revise**

Bill Summary: SB 155 creates the offense of aggravated harming of a public safety animal or search and rescue animal when they know or should have known that an animal is a public safety animal or search and rescue animal and when they intentionally commit, conspire, or attempt to commit an act that causes the death of the animal or injures the animal in a manner that affects its ability to perform

as a public safety animal or search and rescue animal.

The penalty for this conviction is at least two years and no more than 10 years imprisonment, a fine up to \$50,000, or both. The first two years of the sentence cannot be suspended, probated, deferred, or withheld by a sentencing court without the agreement of the prosecuting attorney and the defendant on a sentence below the mandatory minimum.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Public Safety & Homeland Security	<b>Committee</b>	03-15-2023 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 168 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 159 Correctional Institutions of States and Counties; wireless communications and stand-alone electronic devices behind guard lines; prohibit**

Bill Summary: SB 159 enhances penalties for a person who brings prohibited items beyond a guard line for purposes of providing items to inmates. The legislation provides a penalty for any employee or contractor of the Department of Corrections who is found guilty of bringing prohibited items into the facility for an inmate punishable by a 10-year term of imprisonment.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Public Safety & Homeland Security	<b>Committee</b>	03-15-2023 Do Pass by Committee
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	Substitute
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 103 Nays: 72	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 160 Employment Security; provisions**

Bill Summary: SB 160 revises the sunset clause of the statute authorizing the Department of Labor to collect required contributions from employers from 2022 to 2026, which lowers the required rate of contributions for new or newly covered employers to make into the unemployment insurance trust fund from 2.7 percent of wages to 2.64 percent of wages.

The bill reinstates the statute authorizing the Department of Labor to collect an administrative assessment of .06 percent of wages paid by an employer until January 1, 2027.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Shawn Still (48th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Industry and Labor	<b>Committee</b>	03-15-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 97 Nays: 68	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 168 Hospitals and Nursing Homes; chiropractic practice to have a lien on a cause of action accruing to an injured person; allow**

Bill Summary: SB 168 includes chiropractic practices among the entities able to have a lien on a cause of action accruing to an injured person for costs of care. No filing of a lien will be enforceable unless the individual or entity filing the lien first submitted a claim to each health insurer of the injured person, if any, and had the claim rejected.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Rick Williams (25th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Judiciary	<b>Committee</b>	03-21-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 170 Nays: 4	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 195 "Freedom to Work Act"; enact**

Bill Summary: SB 195 requires that an expedited license by endorsement be issued by a board 30 days from the date of receipt of the application rather than 90 days.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	Modified-Structured
<b>House</b>	Regulated Industries	<b>Committee</b>	03-14-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 169 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 211 Georgia Council on Literacy; establish**

**Bill Summary:** SB 211 creates the Georgia Council on Literacy to conduct a comprehensive review of birth to postsecondary literacy programs for the purpose of improving literacy outcomes of Georgia students. The council is composed of 30 members, will meet at least four times per year, and will dissolve December 31, 2026.

**Authored By:** Sen. Billy Hickman (4th)  
**House** Education  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 175 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-15-2023 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 216 Children and Youth Services; respite care for foster parents for longer periods of time pursuant to circumstances; authorize**

**Bill Summary:** SB 216 amends references to "babysitter" in O.C.G.A. 49-5-8.1, related to short-term babysitting of a child in foster care, to instead say "respite care", which the bill defines as occasional or short-term relief for a caregiver by a person or entity.

**Authored By:** Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
**House** Juvenile Justice  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-20-2023 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**SB 217 "Eliminating Ghost Plates Act"; enact**

**Bill Summary:** SB 217 restricts when a school zone speed limit may be enforced using an automated traffic safety device to 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the school starts, 30 minutes prior to and 30 minutes after the school dismisses unless the school campus is bisected by a highway, and when the driver is 10 miles per hour over the speed limit.

When a citation is issued, the driver will receive an assigned hearing date that must be within 60 days of issuance of the citation. If a penalty is unpaid 30 days after a final notice has been mailed, the vehicle's registration cannot be renewed until the penalty and late fees have been collected.

The bill requires an assigned hearing date to be issued with a citation for improperly overtaking a school bus. Registration of the vehicle cannot be renewed until the penalty and late fees are collected.

**Authored By:** Sen. John Albers (56th)  
**House** Motor Vehicles  
**Committee:**  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 110 Nays: 59

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee** 03-09-2023 Do Pass  
**Action:**  
**Amendments:**

**SB 222 Primaries and Elections; all costs and expenses relating to election administration are paid for with lawfully appropriate public funds; provide**

**Bill Summary:** SB 222 requires all expenses related to conducting elections to be paid from lawfully-appropriated public funds. The bill prohibits local governments or election officials from accepting any contributions or donations for the purpose of conducting elections, subject to specified exceptions. The bill prohibits election superintendents, local governments, and boards of registrars from accepting grants or gifts related to conducting elections from any entity other than the State of Georgia or the federal government.

The bill establishes the State Election Board as a separate and distinct budget unit in the state budget, attached to the Office of the Secretary of State for administrative purposes only. The bill completely removes the State Election Board from the jurisdiction of the secretary of state. The bill provides for appointment of an executive director of the State Election Board.

**Authored By:** Sen. Max Burns (23rd)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 100 Nays: 69

**Committee Action:** 03-21-2023 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 240 Retirement and Pensions; the minimum and maximum allowable benefit multiplier for current and future retirees; revise**

Bill Summary: SB 240 prohibits anyone hired after June 1, 2023 from becoming a member of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia, if the operator or management company of the public charter school in which they are employed offers an alternative retirement plan.

The bill requires the Employees Retirement System (ERS) of Georgia to identify each school system that does not extend Social Security coverage to members of the Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). The ERS must submit a report of all school systems that do not offer this benefit to the chairmen of the House and Senate Retirement Committees by September 1, 2023. Any school system not offering coverage must revise their plan to extend coverage by January 1, 2024. On or after September 1, 2023, the ERS is not authorized to approve any plan that does not extend Social Security benefits to PSERS members.

The bill allows the ERS of Georgia to invest up to 10 percent of assets in alternative investments. Currently, ERS can only invest up to five percent of assets in alternative investments. The bill is certified by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts as a non-fiscal retirement bill.

**Authored By:** Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)  
**House Committee:** Retirement  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 165 Nays: 1

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-21-2023 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SB 246 Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce; student loan repayment for certain nursing faculty; provide**

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 246 provides for the establishment of Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) grants. The grants would be awarded to eligible Georgia students enrolled on or before July 1, 2028, in authorized IPSE programs at qualified postsecondary institutions in an amount equal to the current academic year undergraduate tuition at each student's qualified institution. Eligible students may also receive an additional IPSE grant to cover certain fees.

The bill authorizes the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to provide for the repayment of up to \$100,000 in student loans for eligible recipients serving as faculty members in eligible postsecondary nursing programs in this state.

**Authored By:** Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)  
**House Committee:** Higher Education  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 3

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-16-2023 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

**SR 175 Joint Study Committee on Dual Enrollment for Highly Skilled Talent at Younger Ages; create**

Bill Summary: SR 175 creates the Joint Study Committee on Dual Enrollment for Highly Skilled Talent at Younger Ages. This committee will examine existing dual enrollment opportunities to develop highly skilled talent at younger ages and develop solutions to produce more dual enrollment talent.

Section 2 creates the Joint Study Committee on Service Delivery Strategy (SDS). The committee will consist of 10 members as follows: the president of the Senate will appoint three members of the Senate, including the chair of the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee, a county commissioner from a county currently levying a local option sales tax (LOST), and a mayor of a city within a county currently levying a LOST; the speaker of the House will appoint three members of the House of Representatives, including the chair of the House Committee on Governmental Affairs, a county commissioner from a county currently levying a LOST, and a mayor of a city within a county currently levying a LOST. A co-chairperson each from the House of

Representatives and Senate will be chosen by the president of the Senate and speaker of the House, respectively. The committee will stand abolished on December 1, 2023.

**Authored By:** Sen. Matt Brass (28th)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0  
**Floor Action:** Adopted (Resolution)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 03-21-2023 Do Pass by Committee Substitute  
**Amendments:**

## Postponed Until Next Legislative Day

### SB 64 Birth Certificate; issuance of a copy of the original birth certificate to certain adult persons who were adopted; provide

Bill Summary: SB 64 allows an adult who had been adopted to request and receive a copy of their original Georgia birth certificate following payment of a fee. The copy will indicate it is not a certified copy. A parent, sibling, or descendant of a deceased person may receive a copy of the decedent's birth certificate under the same procedure.

**Authored By:** Sen. Randy Robertson (29th)

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

## Local Calendar

### HB 807 Terrell County Land Bank Authority; create

Bill Summary: HB 807 creates the Terrell County Land Bank Authority.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-27-2023 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### SB 285 "Columbia County Public Facilities Authority Act"; enact

Bill Summary: SB 285 creates the Columbia County Public Facilities Authority.

**Authored By:** Sen. Lee Anderson (24th)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 157 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-27-2023 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### SB 287 Board of Education of the City of Decatur; the board of education election districts; reapportion

Bill Summary: SB 287 changes the board of education districts for the City of Decatur.

**Authored By:** Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 157 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-27-2023 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### SB 294 Town of Camak; new charter; provide

Bill Summary: SB 294 provides a new charter for the City of Camak.

**Authored By:** Sen. Max Burns (23rd)  
**House Committee:** Intragovernmental Coordination - Local  
**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 163 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:**  
**Committee Action:** 03-27-2023 Do Pass  
**Amendments:**

### SB 297 McIntosh County; redevelopment and other powers; referendum; provide

Bill Summary: SB 297 authorizes McIntosh County to exercise redevelopment authority.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	
<b>House</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination -	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>	Local	<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 157 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

**SB 301 Board of Education of Dodge County; description of the education districts; change**

Bill Summary: SB 301 changes the board of education districts of Dodge County.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)	<b>Rule Applied:</b>	
<b>House</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination -	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>	Local	<b>Action:</b>	
<b>Floor Vote:</b>	Yeas: 163 Nays: 0	<b>Amendments:</b>	

## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

### Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

**HB 805 Twigg County; School District; increase income cap on homestead exemption granted to certain residents**

Bill Summary: HB 805 revises a homestead exemption from Twigg County School District ad valorem taxes in the amount of \$25,000 for residents who are 62 years of age and older whose income does not exceed \$30,000.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Danny Mathis (149th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass

**HB 806 Twigg County; ad valorem tax; increase income cap on homestead exemption**

Bill Summary: HB 806 revises a homestead exemption from Twigg County ad valorem taxes in the amount of \$25,000 for residents who are 62 years of age and older whose income does not exceed \$30,000.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Danny Mathis (149th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass

**HB 807 Terrell County Land Bank Authority; create**

Bill Summary: HB 807 creates the Terrell County Land Bank Authority.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Mike Cheokas (151st)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass

**SB 285 "Columbia County Public Facilities Authority Act"; enact**

Bill Summary: SB 285 creates the Columbia County Public Facilities Authority.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Lee Anderson (24th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass

**SB 287 Board of Education of the City of Decatur; the board of education election districts; reapportion**

Bill Summary: SB 287 changes the board of education districts for the City of Decatur.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Elena Parent (42nd)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass

**SB 294 Town of Camak; new charter; provide**

Bill Summary: SB 294 provides a new charter for the City of Camak.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Sen. Max Burns (23rd)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass

**SB 297 McIntosh County; redevelopment and other powers; referendum; provide**Bill Summary:

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Sen. Mike Hodges (3rd)		
<b>House</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination -	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>	Local	<b>Action:</b>	

**SB 301 Board of Education of Dodge County; description of the education districts; change**

Bill Summary: SB 301 changes the board of education districts of Dodge County.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Sen. Larry Walker III (20th)		
<b>House</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination -	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>	Local	<b>Action:</b>	

**SB 302 Early County School District; ad valorem taxes for educational purposes; extend the expiration date**

Bill Summary: SB 302 extends the expiration of a homestead exemption from Early County School District ad valorem taxes in the amount of \$150,000 for residents who are 70 years of age or older to December 1, 2028.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Sen. Freddie Sims (12th)		
<b>House</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination -	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>	Local	<b>Action:</b>	

## Judiciary Committee

**HR 519 House Study Committee on Fishing Access to Freshwater Resources; create**

Bill Summary: HR 519 creates the House Study Committee on Fishing Access to Freshwater Resources.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. David Jenkins (136th)		
<b>House</b>	Judiciary	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	

## Rules Committee

**HR 603 House Study Committee on Certificate of Need Modernization; create**

Bill Summary: HR 603 creates the House Study Committee on Certificate of Need Modernization. The committee consists of five members of the House of Representatives and will be abolished on December 1, 2023.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. Sharon Cooper (45th)		
<b>House</b>	Rules	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	

**HR 604 House Study Committee on Funding for the Technical College System of Georgia; create**

Bill Summary: HR 604 creates the House Study Committee on Funding for the Technical College System of Georgia. The committee consists of four members of the House of Representatives and will be abolished on December 1, 2023.

<b>Authorized By:</b>	Rep. David Knight (134th)		
<b>House</b>	Rules	<b>Committee</b>	03-27-2023 Do Pass
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Action:</b>	

## Committee Meeting Schedule

*This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.  
To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.legis.ga.gov](http://www.legis.ga.gov) to view all upcoming events.*

### Tuesday - March 28, 2023

2:00 PM CANCELED RETIREMENT COMMITTEE (House)

406 CLOB

[VIDEO](#)